

天主教輔仁大學英國語文學系學士班畢業成果
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT, FU JEN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY
GRADUATION PROJECT 2019

指導教授：曾明怡老師

Dr. Lydia Tseng

真善美聖

**The Impacts of Political Affiliations on News Articles:
The Reports of Trump's Jerusalem Decision
Covered by Fox News and Al Jazeera**

SANCTITAS BONITAS

PULCHRITUDO

VERITAS

學生：蔡明軒撰

Dilla Ming-Hsuan Tsai

Discourse Analysis

Final Project

Professor Lydia Tseng

Dilla Tsai

18 January 2018



The Impacts of Political Affiliations on News Articles: The Reports of Trump's
Jerusalem Decision Covered by Fox News and Al Jazeera

Abstract

This study analyzes whether the American television channel, Fox News, has political affiliation with the Israeli government. This study is a critical discourse analysis of 6 online news articles from Fox News and Al Jazeera. This study draws upon Fairclough's "intertextuality" to analyze the elements such as "voices" and "intertextuality" in the texts and determine to find out the difference of "framing", as Fairclough mentions, between news articles from Fox News and news articles from Al Jazeera.

Introduction

The United States has been “the police of the world” to intervene other countries politics for decades. Especially after the day *9/11*, the U.S. media labels people in middle-east as terrorists and sends U.S. army to middle-east to fight a war around 2000. Since then, people in the world who has been astonished by the event of *9/11* have gradually believed that middle-east is a place that produces terrorism. However, several years after the *9/11*, it is reported that the U.S. army kills many ordinary citizens in the middle-east. On 6 December 2017, U.S. president, Donald Trump, declares that Jerusalem is the capital of Israel. Trump’s controversial decision turns the United States into “world police” again. Will people in the world believe the United States is on the side of justice this time? By selecting news articles from Fox News and Al Jazeera, this study will examine how different media reports on the same issue, Trump’s Jerusalem decision. Fox News is an American television news channel, which may have political affiliation with Trump’s Republican Party. Al Jazeera is a middle-east television news channel. By drawing upon Norman Fairclough’s critical discourse analysis approaches, this study will focus on the analysis of news articles about Trump’s Jerusalem decision from an American point of view and a middle-east point of view. This study aims to find out whether Fox News has political affiliation with Israeli government. The specific events related to Trump’s Jerusalem decision are chosen to be uncovered in this investigation are: Gaza conflicts.

Data collection & method of data analysis

This paper is a critical discourse analysis of 6 online news articles from Fox News and Al Jazeera. By drawing upon Norman Fairclough’s “intertextuality,” (47)

this paper aims to answer the question: “which texts and voices are included, which are excluded, and what significant absences are there?” (47) In addition, this paper uses “voice” and “forms of intertextuality” to categorize the elements of the texts. By considering what “voices” are included and what “forms of intertextuality” are used in the texts, this study focusses on different media’s “framing” (Fairclough 53) and determines to find out whether the American television news channel, Fox News, has political affiliation with the Israeli government.

Analysis

The Gaza conflicts are referred to the Israeli air raid and rocket fire from Gaza in December 2017 in this paper. After Donald Trump recognizes Jerusalem as Israeli capital, military conflicts occur in the Gaza Strip. This study is going to analyze how Fox News and Al Jazeera report on the Gaza conflicts. This study uses critical discourse analysis to analyze the “intertextuality” (Fairclough 47) in news articles from Fox News and Al Jazeera. Table 1 and Table 2 are designed to answer the questions: “which texts and voices are included, which are excluded, and what significant absences are there?” (Fairclough 47) Table 1 is based on four news articles which report on Gaza conflicts from Fox News. Four articles are listed in chronological order.

Table 1.

Date	Voice	Forms of intertextuality
<i>12/9</i>	Gaza officials say	Indirect reporting
	The Israeli military says	Indirect reporting
	The military says	Indirect reporting

	Hamas says	Indirect reporting
	Israel considers	Indirect reporting
	Donald Trump's announcement	Indirect reporting
12/14	The Israeli military says	Indirect reporting
	The military said	Indirect reporting
	Donald Trump's recognition	Indirect reporting
	Israel says	Indirect reporting
12/18	The Israeli military says	Indirect reporting
	The military said	Indirect reporting
	Israel says	Indirect reporting
12/29	Israel says	Indirect reporting
	The military said	Indirect reporting
	Police said	Indirect reporting
	Israel holds	Indirect reporting

The main voices represented in the four news articles from Fox News are the Israeli military and Israel. Moreover, despite the news on 9th December 2017, the voices represented in the other news articles are “imbalanced.” As Fairclough mentions, multiple voices represented in the same report will lead to credibility of the report. Take table 1 as example, the articles from Fox News may be problematic because primarily representing the voices of Israel, these articles are “less favorable” (Fairclough 53) to Hamas government in Gaza. Furthermore, four news articles from Fox all point out “Israeli ‘hold’ Hamas, the Islamic militant group that rules Gaza,

responsible for all attack emanating from the territory regardless of who fires the rockets” (Fox News). However, Hamas’ voice is only included once in the 9th December article: “Hamas says it recovered the bodies of two of its men.” In the other three articles, Hamas’ voice is a “significant absence” (Fairclough 47). This imbalance of voices indicates that these reports from Fox News are “less favorable” to Hamas because these reports all point out that the air raid is a response for Gaza rocket fire, for which Hamas government should be responsible.

The following content is Table 2. It is based on two reports on Gaza conflicts from Al Jazeera.

Table 2.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Voice</i>	<i>Forms of intertextuality</i>
12/9	According to the Palestinian health ministry	Indirect reporting
	According to the Israeli daily Haaretz	Indirect reporting
	Hamas tweeted that	Direct reporting
	Israeli media said	Indirect reporting
	Donald Trump’s recognition	Indirect reporting
	Al Jazeera was unable to confirm	Indirect reporting
	Hamas called	Direct reporting
	Haniya said	Direct reporting
12/9	According to	Indirect reporting

	Palestinian health ministry	
	Dr. Ashraf al-Qidra told	Indirect reporting
	Anonymous sources	Indirect reporting
	Hamas tweeted that	Direct reporting
	Israeli media said	Indirect reporting
	Donald Trump's recognition	Indirect reporting
	Al Jazeera was unable to confirm	Indirect reporting
	Hamas called	Direct reporting
	Haniya said	Direct reporting

The major difference between table 1 and table 2 is the variety of voices. Table 2 indicates that the news articles from Al Jazeera have more voices than Fox News. Fox's articles primarily include the voices of Israel and the Israel military. On the other hand, Al Jazeera's articles include the voices of Palestinian health ministry, Israeli media, Hamas, and Haniya, chairman of the Hamas political bureau. In addition, the voice of Palestinian health ministry provides information about the injuries of 25 Palestinians due to Israeli attack. Based on this information, two news articles from Al Jazeera both point out "Israel jets attack Gaza amid Jerusalem unrest." By comparing the articles from Fox News and Al Jazeera, the major difference is, as Fairclough defines, "Framing." (53) Fairclough points out that "when the voice of another is incorporated into a text, there are always choices about how to 'frame' it, how to contextualize it, in terms of other parts of the text — about relation between

report and authorial account.” (53) For example, Fox News “frames” the voice of Israel with the Israeli military, which is also the voice of Israel. That is, in Fox’s articles, there is no voice from Hamas’ side can prove that Hamas is responsible for rockets fired from Gaza. That is why Hama’s voice is a “significant absence” (Fairclough 47). For example, “The military said the airstrikes overnight targeted a Hamas training compound in northern Gaza” (Fox News) is “framed” with “Israeli ‘hold’ Hamas, the Islamic militant group that rules Gaza, responsible for all attack emanating from the territory regardless of who fires the rockets” (Fox News). To put it simply, is it appropriate for Israeli military to attack Hamas facilities just because the Israeli government holds Hamas responsible for rockets fire? The “presupposition” (Fairclough 40) of articles from Fox News is based on the same voices: Israel and Israeli military. As a result, the news articles from Fox News may lack credibility because the voices are imbalanced.

On the other hand, Al Jazeera’s articles “frame” the voice, “Israeli media said the targets were Hamas military installations,” (Al Jazeera) with the voice of Palestinian health ministry, “at least 25 Palestinians, including six children, have been wounded in an Israeli air raid on the besieged Gaza Strip” (Al Jazeera). Al Jazeera’s “framing” links the Israeli airstrike with the injuries of citizens to indicate that Israeli airstrike not only damages Hamas facilities. Moreover, “framing” can also be observed in the headlines of articles from Fox News and Al Jazeera. Fairclough claims that “framing” would appear in “the salient position of the headline.” (54-55) Table 3 is the headlines of the 6 news articles from Fox News and Al Jazeera. Headlines of Fox news suggest that Israeli airstrikes are response to rockets fired from Gaza. By contrast, headlines

of Al Jazeera suggest that Israeli jets attack amid the Jerusalem protests.

Table 3.

Headlines of Fox News	Headlines of Al Jazeera
<i>Israeli strikes kill 2 Hamas men after Gaza rocket attack (12/9)</i>	<i>Israeli jets attack Gaza amid Jerusalem unrest (12/9)</i>
<i>Israel stages airstrikes in Gaza strip, response to rockets (12/14)</i>	
<i>Israeli military: Airstrikes target Hamas compound in Gaza (12/18)</i>	<i>Gaza: Two dead in Israeli attack amid Jerusalem (12/9)</i>
<i>Military says Gaza gunmen fire rockets at Israel (12/29)</i>	

In terms of “forms of intertextuality,” (Fairclough 49) four articles from Fox news all use “indirect reporting” (49) to “bring other ‘voices’ in to a text.” (41) However, two articles from Al Jazeera use both “indirect reporting” and “direct reporting.” (49) The difference of “forms of intertextuality” “between the articles from Fox News and Al Jazeera is explained by Fairclough, “One important contrast in reporting is between reports which are relatively ‘faithful’ to what is reported and those which are not.” (49) By using “direct reporting,” the voices of Hamas and Haniya are included to represent their attitude in the news articles from Al Jazeera. As for the ways to bring other voices into texts, while referring to rockets fired from Gaza, Al Jazeera describes the rockets as “the alleged launching of rockets from

inside Gaza Strip” and adds the voice of Al Jazeera itself, “Al Jazeera was unable to confirm if any group in Gaza had claimed responsibility for rockets.” By contrast, four articles from Fox News use the voice of Israel to suggest that “Israel holds Hamas, the Islamic militant group that rules Gaza, responsible for all attack emanating from the territory regardless of who fires the rockets.” As a result, how carefully do Al Jazeera and Fox News bring “voices” into texts can be observed.

Conclusion

As Clark and Ivanic mentions, “The media do not simply reflect or reproduce reality; they define it, by selecting, structuring, shaping, and re-presenting reality.” (27) To the readers, what important is “how one meaning wins credibility or legitimacy over other available meanings.” (27) The news articles from Fox News and Al Jazeera reveal that two media both “re-present reality”, but they “re-present the reality” in different ways. Trump’s recognition of Jerusalem as Israel is an act which enhances the diplomatic relations between Israel and the United States. By using discourse analysis and drawing upon Fairclough’s intertextuality, comparison between Fox News and Al Jazeera thus reveals that the American television news channel, Fox News, is more favorable to the Israeli government.

Works Cited

Clark, Romy, and Roz Ivanic. *The Politics of Writing*. Routledge, 1997.

Fairclough, Norman. *Analysing Discourse: Textual analysis for social research*.

Routledge, 2003.

“Gaza: Two Dead in Israeli Attack amid Jerusalem Unrest.” *Al Jazeera* 9 Dec. 2017.

Web. 6 Jan. 2018.

“Israeli Jets Attack Gaza amid Jerusalem Unrest.” *Al Jazeera* 9 Dec. 2017. Web. 6 Jan. 2018.

“Israeli Military: Airstrikes Target Hamas Compound in Gaza.” *Associated Press* 18

Dec. 2017. Web. 6 Jan. 2018.

“Israel Stage Airstrikes in Gaza Strip, Response to Rockets.” *Associated Press* 14 Dec.

2017. Web. 6 Jan. 2018.

“Israeli Strikes Kill 2 Hamas Men After Gaza Rocket Attack.” *Associated Press* 9 Dec.

2017. Web. 6 Jan. 2018.

“Military Says Gaza Gunmen Fire Rockets at Israel.” *Associated Press* 29 Dec. 2017.

Web. 6 Jan. 2018.

